GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

Multilateral Trade Negotiations
Group "Non-Tariff Measures"
Sub-Group "Customs Matters"

PROPOSAL BY THE UNITED STATES

Objective
To facilitate the work of the Sub-Group by providing a framework for finding solutions to specific customs problems.

Subject matter
This procedure would cover those issues mandated to the Customs Matters Sub-Group and including, in particular, customs procedures, import documentation and consular formalities and fees.

Procedures
1. Delegations would prepare notifications of specific customs problems that they have encountered and then submit them via the secretariat to those countries maintaining those practices.

2. The secretariat would circulate these notifications to MTN participants.

3. Consultations would be arranged on a bilateral or plurilateral basis to discuss the notifications, determine their accuracy, and explore possible solutions to the problems raised in the notifications. Assistance from the secretariat would be available on request.

4. After the consultations have taken place delegations should endeavour to send to the secretariat summary notes with respect to the consultations in which they had participated as exporting or importing countries; the secretariat would assemble and distribute these summaries in the appropriate NTM document series to facilitate the further work of the Sub-Group.

5. On the basis of such summary notes and any further oral comments, the customs Matters Sub-Group would review the results of these consultations with a view to determining the next step in this aspect of the negotiation. Such determination should include the possibility of multilateral solutions to these problems.